

PE1319/Z

Chief Medical Officer, Public Health and Sport Directorate
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Public Petitions Clerks
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Dear Anne Peat

PETITION PE1319

Thank you for your letter of 12 October in relation to petition PE1319.

Discussions are ongoing between the Scottish Government, **sportscotland** and the Scottish Football Association (SFA) on a wide range of issues.

Following the comprehensive Henry McLeish Review of Scottish football, earlier this year the SFA Executive team put forward proposals to its AGM for significant changes to the way the SFA is governed. These changes were unanimously supported and the new SFA strategic plan "*Scotland United - A 2020 Vision*" has been published. Our continuing commitment to the Youth Action Plan allows us to support this through two of its strategic goals "Strong Quality Growth" and "Perform & Win" helping to develop youth football and the women's game. *Scotland United* has brought a refreshed and sharpened focus to youth football priorities and we look forward to supporting this through the Youth Action Plan as it develops on an ongoing basis.

The Scottish Government has consistently made it clear to the SFA that they and the football clubs have a duty of care for all of the young people involved within the youth initiative which must be upheld at all times. The changes the SFA have made to their structure and governance include bringing all the non-professional associations together for the first time which should allow for issues such as those raised in this petition to be discussed and resolved.

Yours sincerely

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